

What do the names Davis, Christian, and Turner mean to you? They are not the triple play combination on some big league baseball team. They are not the members of the hottest band on the billboard charts nor are they members of the board of directors for a Fortune 500 company. They just happen to be three of the hardest working Soldiers on Forward Operating Base Duke, Iraq. These three hardworking Soldiers are PFC Gavin Davis, PFC Ronald Christian, and PFC Christopher Turner. All three are members of Bravo Company, 204<sup>th</sup> Support Battalion's Service and Recovery Section. To be more specific all three make up the welding shop along with their supervisor Sergeant Ryan Root.

Since arriving in Iraq the Service and Recovery Section, known as "S&R", has continuously exceeded the standard placed upon them. The S&R section is composed of twelve soldiers, including their Section Team Chief SSG John Sumners and Technician WO1 Jeffery Chestang. Even though they are small in number they support over 5,000 Soldiers of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade Combat Team with outstanding support. Their daily missions include combat readiness support, tactical support, product fabrication, welding operations and vehicle recovery for the whole battalion. Their customers are not limited to just the 204<sup>th</sup> Battalion and the 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade. Every FOB Duke tenant unit including members of the Marine Corps have come to S&R for their help and expertise. Even units from other bases have stopped by the section.

What do eagle mounts, X-wing mounts and ballistic glass turrets have in common? They are just three of the many products that S&R has built during their last five months in Iraq. One of the major tasks for the S&R section is improve combat readiness in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade's tactical vehicles. They have spent countless hours

designing and fabricating improvements for numerous vehicles but none more than the M1114, the up armored version of the HMMWV. They have modified sixteen M1114s with eagle mounts and ammunition racks. The purpose of this modification is to increase the fire power of the M1114 gunner by allowing him to use a secondary weapon system in conjunction with their primary weapon system. As the old saying goes, if two heads are better than one, then two weapons are definitely better than one. Along with the eagle mounts, the S&R section was able to improve gunner safety by installing ballistic glass around the gunner's turret. The shop borrowed the design from other units in theater and mounted ballistic windows from the M1114 on top of the standard turret to greatly increase the overall safety of the gunners.

Additionally the S&R section has been able to improve communication throughout the brigade. S&R fabricated 50 radio mounts known as X wing mounts which are designed to secure delicate and vital communication equipment in a M1114.

To improve tactical readiness the S&R team built 12 telescopic stands for guard duty towers, and cut out tracks in order to create control over the entrance gates. S&R has excelled in numerous tasking around the FOB such as the remodeling of the Chapel with book shelves, building 10 desks for administrative personnel, and at least 20 work orders for improving the Soldiers' quality of life. Additionally, they assisted civilians with survivability improvements on their SUVs. They built tool racks for the Motor Pool, POL racks for the Marine Corps, nitrogen tank brackets for the FOB, and numerous more jobs.

Given their outstanding work production, you may think that this few Soldiers must never leave their shop let alone leave the FOB. This could not be further from the

truth. Everyday these amazing Soldiers put themselves in harms way by providing the battalion with recovery support. They have completed over 150 recovery missions since they have been on ground. The majority of these missions were part of the standard logistical convoy that provided support throughout the whole 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade. However, there has been times when the section has had to send out a M984 (10 ton wrecker) at a moment's notice. Not matter what time of day or night the recovery shop is always there to support their fellow Soldiers, providing support 24/7.

If you were to spend anytime with these twelve Soldiers you would quickly ascertain the culture of the "S&R" section. They are more then just twelve individual Soldiers. They are a team in every sense of the word and they always accomplish the mission. They are an invaluable asset to both the 204<sup>th</sup> Support Battalion and the 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade. Due to their technical expertise S&R has earned a reputation of always providing outstanding support to the brigade.